

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 071710Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 4276

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5437

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH CHILEAN LEADERS

1. FEW DAYS AGO, SOURCE IN OFFICE OF HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE JUNTA SUGGESTED TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN GOC AND USG, A TOTALLY PRIVATE AND FRANK DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND MYSELF MIGHT BE USEFUL. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOURCE VISITED EMBASSY AND STATED THAT PINOCHET'S OFFICE FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF PINOCHET TALKED FIRST WITH AMBASSADOR TRUCCO, WHO HE SAID WOULD BE CONSULTING IN CHILE IN ABOUT TEN DAYS; THEN ON THE BASIS OF THAT TALK, A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND ME COULD BE SET UP, PRESUMABLY WITH TRUCCO ALSO PRESENT. RATIONALE GIVEN WAS THAT TRUCCO WAS MORE CLOSELY FAMILIAR WITH CURRENT STATE OF CHILEAN-US RELATIONS THAN ANYONE ELSE, AND HIS INPUT WAS THEREFORE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

3. SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS CHANNEL WAS SPECIAL, AND SHOULD NOT BECOME KNOWN TO FONOFF. WE SAID WE WOULD RESPECT HIS WISHES ON THIS POINT.

4. EXTENT TO WHICH THIS AFFAIR IS KNOWN TO AND APPROVED BY PINOCHET HIMSELF IS NOT CLEAR, BUT I DOUBT THAT IT COULD GO VERY FAR WITHOUT TOPSIDE APPROVAL. OF COURSE I WILL BE GLAD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS FRANKLY WITH PINOCHET AND WITH TRUCCO, TO EXTENT THE CHILEANS DESIRE. MOST FRUITFUL LINE OF DISCUSSION
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WOULD BE TO PUT ASIDE CRITICISMS RECIPROCALLY EXPRESSED

BY BOTH SIDES, AND TO CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC STEPS
WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. IF THE PROPOSED
APPOINTMENTS SHOULD EVENTUATE, I WILL BE SENDING SOME
THOUGHTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS REGARD.
POPPER

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NNN

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